Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2026

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, October 26, 2026, in the Board Room at 850 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. President Craig Stadtmueller called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Board member Creighton Randolph led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Absent: Norton and Schlarmann. Others present were Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Kegan Arduser, Rebecca DeWitte, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Robyn Ponder, and Katie Harms with OPN Architects.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Congratulations were extended to: our principals Nick, Todd, Gina, and Shannon for their dedication and teamwork; Tricia Lambert on receiving the DuTrac Back to School Mini Grant; Cindy Savage and Carpenter Elementary on receiving the Silos & Smokestacks Grant for the 3rd Grade Field Trip to the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History; the Monticello boys who finished 6th out of twenty 2A teams at the middle school State XC Meet and to Avery Blakesley and Lily Cupples who received medals for finishing in the top 50 of over 100 runners; the following all conference volleyball players: Kenya Davis-Robinson, first team; Emma Kromminga, second team; and Brynn Schmit, honorable mention; Todd Werner on bin selected as Middle School Principal of the Year; and to the girl's cross country team on advancing to state and to Alan Arriaga-Rangel who also qualified for state cross country.

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Gina McConahay was absent.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: A big shoutout to Robyn, Todd, and Gina! I'm fortunate to work alongside such a great team. One of the new requirements this year is the Civics Test, and many of our students have already completed it. So far, 165 students have passed, 67 have not passed, and 73 have yet to take the test. Fall activities are wrapping up, and we had a strong showing at All-State Band and Choir. The fall musical is also coming up soon! MAP testing is complete, and initial results are looking very promising. However, delays in receiving ISASP results and school report cards continue to make it challenging to measure progress and make timely improvements. We hope to see improvements in the reporting timeline moving forward.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: We held our "Shadow a Student" Day on October 7, welcoming nearly 140 visitors and receiving very positive feedback and appreciation for our teaching staff. All fall safety drills have been completed, and we held our first band concert last week. Our 7th graders also enjoyed Outdoor Education, a favorite activity among students. Finally, I want to thank my staff for their continued dedication, hard work, and support following my recognition as Middle School Principal of the Year. I couldn't do it without all of you!

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: Our special education count is due Friday, and I've been reviewing and double-checking our numbers to ensure everything is accurate. Kudos to our special education teachers for consistently finalizing their IEPs in a timely manner! This year, we have slightly fewer students receiving special education services, but most of our students fall within Level 3. Last week, I attended the ITEC Conference with a team of staff members. It's always exciting to explore new ways to incorporate technology into teaching and learning. I also attended a high school science conference, which included a visit to an Ape Encounter. We're hoping to arrange a virtual field trip so our students can experience it as well!

Superintendent Brian Jaeger: Here's a quick elementary school update: Garling Construction Supervisor Chris Kimm plans to invite the fire department to tour the new building construction in the next few weeks. He also shared that they plan to pour the parking lot in front of the building before winter begins. Next month, I will

bring the 2027–28 school calendar to the Board for approval. With all schools located at one site, we will gain 15 minutes each day, which will allow us to reduce the overall number of school days. As part of his superintendent licensure project, Nick Schauf is organizing a legislative forum with our legislators on December 2. I also had my first meeting with City Administrator Russ Farnum regarding the land swap. He will be gathering acreage estimates and developing a timeline for moving forward, with the hope of meeting with the City Council in January. Finally, October is Principals Month! Thank you to our principals and Robyn for all you do. I truly enjoy working with all of you and appreciate your dedication to our district.

Travis Squires with Piper Sandler attended virtually to review the term sheet for the sales tax revenue debt financing and provide an overview of the bond timeline.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the Term Sheet for Sales Tax Financing for Distribution of Sales Tax Revenue Debt as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Katie Harms from OPN Architects discussed change order #007 for the new elementary. The adjustments were to delete a water main loop connection across Spring Farm Lane, change of door swing, and a change on some door jambs and drywall edge for a credit of $8,593.09.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #007 for a credit of $8,593.09 as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the Resolution Ordering Election on the Question of Continuing to Levy and Impose a Voter Approved Physical Plant & Equipment Property Tax and Income Surtax as presented. This will call for a PPEL election on March 2, 2027. By roll call vote: Randolph, aye; Amsler, aye, and Stadtmueller, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the Early Retirement Incentive Plan for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the eight 2026-27 early graduation requests as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the 2026-27 Superintendent goals as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the additional middle school field trip to attend the *Ebenezer* movie as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the first reading of the following Board policies as presented: #801.1 Planning the Budget and #1002.2 Religious Expression with Superintendent Jaeger reviewing the law and IASB policy before the next reading of policy #1002.2. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried

Motion made by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried

Board member activity reports: Randolph attended the high school choir concert last week which was very enjoyable; Mr. Kniess does a phenomenal job!

The Board wanted the public to know that the new elementary school project is currently under its contingency budget, that the district is supporting local commerce by involving local banks in the bond process, and that a PPEL election is being called for March 2, 2027.

The following announcements were made:

a. Next Work Session is Wednesday, November 11 @ 6:00 pm
b. IASB Delegate Assembly is November 18
c. IASB Annual Convention is November 18-19
d. Next Board Meeting is Monday, November 23 @ 6:00 pm

There being no further business, Amsler made a motion, seconded by Randolph to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm and move to the Exempt Session per Iowa Code. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried

Approved: Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President Judy Hayen, Board Secretary